THE JOYOUS SEASON

FRANCIS Terry-- [redacted]-Of course, if you want to act like a child--- Terry, John's waiting for you

TERRY Let him.

FRANCIS They all are.

TERRY Let them.

FRANCIS I don't know what you're trying to prove.

TERRY I'm not trying to prove things. I just don't like conferences.

FRANCIS Oh, come on, please dear.

TERRY Be a good husband and go in my place, Francis.

FRANCIS It's the family John wants, something to do with your sister, apparently.

TERRY I wouldn't doubt it for a minute, Who went to meet the boat?

FRANCIS Edith

TERRY I thought so:--Martin too?

FRANCIS No, Edith said that only a woman should meet her.

TERRY The true Boston spirit. I hope she took something to dump in the harbour.

FRANCIS Anyhow, John asked me to tell you that he wants to talk to the family about an important matter.

TERRY Well, you can tell John for me to go to---which is precisely what I'd like to tell her when she comes.

FRANCIS You must; it would be so very sisterly and considerate.

.Y What consideration did she ever show us---show Mother? Religious vocation my eye. I don't like deserters. I grant you life's a mess, but I like people who can stand and take it. I think I'll go to bed.

FRANCIS I should think that if Martin and Edith could put off their trip west, put off seeing their children on Christmas, you might strain a point and-----

TERRY "Christmas!" I'll bet she deliberately timed it to land Christmas Eve, in order to make the homecoming all the more sweet and pious.

FRANCIS Well, in my opinion, which, if you'll allow me to say so, is based upon a fairly intimate knowledge of the Farley family-----

TERRY Please don't be professorial with me, Francis. Save it for the freshman classes.

FRANCIS Ah. Now we're getting down to it----

TERRY Are we? I wasn't sure we ever could again,

FRANCIS What is it all about, Terry?

TERRY I wish I knew.

FRANCIS So do I.

TERRY Let's get out on our own. Will you?

FRANCIS It was your idea, living with the family, wasn't it?

TERRY Maybe I was wrong.

[redacted]

FRANCIS You---Oh no, Terry. I was dead against it at first, if you'll remember. But things are different since then.---So, for the time being, I think we're very well off as and where we are. It's a big house.

TERRY Then it never occurs to you how essentially ridiculous it is.

.IS --What is?

ARY For a simple Irish family to huddle together in a Back Bay Mansion.

[redacted]

FRANCIS Is that what we're doing? It makes a pretty picture.

TERRY From a farm up in Merrimac to a mansion on Beacon Hill--- a long, tough climb, but we made it, eh? --- Trust a bunch of true micks for persistence, anyhow. --- I suppose there's only one town in the world harder for an Irish family to arrive in---- Dublin.

FRANCIS --- Nobody's done any climbing that I know of, Terry. John's a genius at banking, and Martin's almost as good. They've worked hard for the place they've made here. Even my little job at the law school I can honestly say I earned.

TERRY But a teacher. --- When you and I married two years ago, you were going to do such wonders in the Law as had never been heard of. You had the most beautiful violence about it.

FRANCIS I also had some money then,

TERRY You're a strange case, Francis Battle, about as strange as they come. You've been softened by the loss of it.

FRANCIS "Softened" --- because I may find myself more interested in teaching law than practicing it? Didn't John teach for years?

TERRY Yes, and John should have stayed at it. You're not John. You've simply got the gift of gab. I've seen with my own eyes the way your stream of fine energy has turned into a stream of talk --- heard it, rather.

FRANCIS Thanks, Terry.

TERRY The way you sit in your room for hours at a time, playing the phonograph to yourself --- You're beginning to like the soft life, and you know it --- the nice little easy esteem--- and at your age --- Is that why you spend so much time in

Cambridge --- do you get more esteem there? From whom?

FRANCIS Honestly, Terry----

TERRY Oh, I hate the way we're living. Let's get out now- at once!

FRANCIS What?

TERRY Let's get out - away!

FRANCIS At the moment I think it would b

[redacted]

TERRY You wouldn't be too surprised, would you, Francis?

FRANCIS what?

TERRY If suddenly I should call it a day --- call us a day.

FRANCIS Terry, what are you talking about.

TERRY Oh, don't think it's a new idea. It's been around quite a while now.

FRANCIS I don't see how you can say it even.

TERRY But it seems I can. Yes, at last it seems I can (she looks at him) --- You think I never would.

FRANCIS I know you wouldn't. You've no reason to, that I know of.

TERRY I don't need any. ---What about our agreement?

FRANCIS Agreements are easy enough before marriage.

TERRY But what's really to prevent it? I am too good a Catholic?

FRANCIS That's one thing that I've never thought of any of you.

TERRY No? How so? Why not? ---Because we didn't run to church the entire time, like new-born Edith? Maybe you better turn convert as she did --- and soon, very soon, be more Catholic than the Pope.

.IS Now you are being Irish.

.RRY Anyhow, maybe you're right, maybe I'm not one. There, I've said that as well! I'm not one. I'm nothing. --- Let the rest of them keep on pretending, if they like. Not me. --- Church about once a month --- when we get around to it. [redacted] Look here, do you love me? Do you love me anymore?

FRANCIS What do you think?

TERRY Then why don't you say something?

FRANCIS In my opinion, when the necessity arises for putting a question of that sort---

TERRY Professor --- may I go out? I think I'm going to be sick, professor.

FRANCIS Terry, there's more to this than meets the eye. It's more than a question of where we live, whether I teach law or practice it. You've got something on your mind, and have had for months. Why not out with it?

TERRY Well then --- I don't love you. You hear me, professor? Professors get no love [redacted] me. It's the doors this girl loves!